



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Meeting Summary

January 13, 2016

Dr. Barbara Andrews gave a brief orientation to the new commissioners prior to the full commission meeting. New commissioner received a PowerPoint handout of the roles and responsibilities of the Commission on Children and Youth. During the presentation pertaining to “Lobbying” (under 2nd bullet), one of the commissioners understood the fact that no lobbying is allowed but wanted an explanation what was meant by the phrase “exception of the Board of Education and the Governor’s Office for Children”. Dr. Andrews agreed to get back with an answer to this question.

Members Present: Dana Bell, Shari Argue, Gina Brown, Ethan Chen, Adriane Clutter, Cecily Darden-Adams, Tom Grazio, Carson Henry, Lindsay Hoffman, Nancy Kaplan, Nora Ludden, Elizabeth McGlynn, Dr. Angela Mickalide, Howard Nicholson, Tamara Niedomanski, Gina Polley, Roberta Rinker, Bobbi Sherman and Beka Urgessa.

Members Absent: Stuart Grossman and Sareanna Kimia

Staff Present: Dr. Barbara Andrews, Erin Stillwell and Marva Younger

Guest Speaker: Ms. JoAnn K. Barnes. Chief, Children, Youth and Families

Guest Attendee: Brenda Brooks, Commission on Health

Dana Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of guest, members and staff

Guest Speaker: Ms. JoAnn Barnes addressed the issue of homeless in Montgomery County in response to the “Youth Having a Voice” Roundtable discussion in December. She complimented the youth commissioners (Bobbi, Ethan, and Howard) for their leadership role at the roundtable. Ms. Barnes also commented on the number of youth attending the roundtable that had personally been touched by homelessness or knew of someone who had been homeless.

Ms. Barnes was interested in hearing about the Commission’s priorities around the issue of homeless and youth in the County. Several commissioners commented with a wide range of problems affecting homelessness.

Comments from Commissioners:

- Insufficient funding for additional beds at shelters, especially for youth aged 18 to 24 years
- Many homeless youth work, but lack education and/or are not attending school
- Many youth 18 years and older have problems (drugs, alcohol, mental illness, etc.) tend to get kicked out by parents
- Outreach system is needed to address homelessness
- Many homeless youth sleep on streets and find it hard to be in a structured environment
- Homeless youth are at greater risk to be targets for human trafficking

Commissioners serving on the homeless committee have reached out to several organizations (e.g., Sara Black from DHHS Special Needs Housing, Susie Sinclair-Smith from MC Coalition for the Homeless) seeking data on the number of homeless youth to get a sense of who widespread is this issues. This is an ongoing effort to gather data from various organizations.

Ms. Barnes explained DHHS plans to reapply for the Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) Grant; a grant to assist disconnected youth. The first application for grant was denied, mainly due to the belief that County's demographics were too affluent. This grant will help youth who may be in criminal justice systems, drugs, alcohol and etc. She stated that youth 18 years and younger may seek help from the child welfare system. However, those over 18 years fall outside the scope of this assistance.

Members of the homeless sub-committee asked Ms. Barnes if she could provide thoughts or recommendations that may make a difference with the homelessness of youth. Ms. Barnes responded that she would do so at a later time. She urged the committee to continue gathering data and see what they are able to report. She also encouraged the Commission to reach out to Sara Black (MC Special Needs Housing) to better understand the process and not duplicate services.

On behalf of the commissioners, Dana thanked Ms. Barnes for sharing her concerns on youth homelessness.

Action Items:

Approval of November 18th Meeting Minutes

- Lindsay Hoffman made motion to approve minutes.
- Gina Brown seconded the motion.
- The November 18th minutes were unanimously approved.

The Youth Voice Roundtable notes were reviewed with no additional comments.

Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Nancy Dworkin Awards:

- Nomination Committee:

Elizabeth McGlynn, Shari Argue, Nora Ludden, Lindsay Hoffman, Angela Mickalide, Roberta Rinker, Cecily Darden-Adams, Beka Urgessa, & Bobbi Sherman

- Set-Up Committee:

Tom Grazio, Nancy (Alan) Kaplan, Howard Nicholson III, Ethan Chen & Bobbi Sherman

- Clean-Up Committee:

Carson Henry & Tami Nedomanski

Committee Meetings and Reports:

Prior to breakout of the sub-committee, Dana stressed that the time period to complete work on the two priorities is short. The work must be completed by May 2016.

My Brother's Keeper Committee Report

The committee will identify programs and services in the County in relationship to My Brother's Keeper. They will look at models of other communities who have coordinated youth service programs. In addition, they will find out when summit on "My Brother's Keeper" will be held. The Sub-Committee also wants to focus on preventing youth from becoming disconnected by identifying services and programs as an early intervention. Plans are underway to invite Elijah Wheeler from the Collaboration Council to speak.

Homeless Committee Reports

The committee continues to collect and research data to narrow their focus on homeless youth. Several members reported on information that they obtained from various organizations. The action plan for February is to continue the collaboration with Susie Sinclair-Smith for data on homeless females. Ms. Sinclair-Smith previously provided data on homeless males. A request will be made to the DHHS crisis center for homeless youth during the intake process. A request will be made to administration at Blair High School for homeless information that they may be willing to share. The committee also plans to invite law enforcement to share their perspective on youth homelessness and its impacts.

Announcements/Reminders:

Erin Stillwell, staff announced that the Nancy Dworkin Award will be held either on May 16 or 23, 6:00pm-9:00pm. This is the 30th anniversary and we need a nice inexpensive

venue to seat approximately 150 people. The following venues were suggested – NCCF, Black Rock, Fillmore and Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Rockville. Adrienne will look for other venues.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service will be held on Monday, January 18 at the North Bethesda Grand Ballroom. The members decided to participate as individuals rather than a group. Currently, Nora and Dana plan to participate.

Nancy Kaplan had handmade pillows that were available for distribution to any organization that serves children/youth.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.